



REMARKS

This Application has been carefully reviewed in light of the Office Action mailed September 14, 2004. Claims 1-25 were pending in the application. Claims 1-6, 10-16, 20-21, and 25 stand rejected. Claims 7-9 and 17-19 are objected to and Claims 22-24 are allowed. Based on the remarks below, Applicants respectfully request reconsideration and favorable action in this case.

Allowable Subject Matter

Applicants note with appreciation the Examiner's indication that Claims 22-24 are allowable and that Claims 7-9 and 17-19 would be allowable if rewritten in independent form to include the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims. As described below, Applicants have amended independent Claims 1 and 11 to include the limitations of Claims 7 and 17, respectively.

Section 102 Rejections

Claims 1-4, 6, 10-14, 16, 20-21, and 25 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(e) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 6,751,743 to Theodoras ("*Theodoras*").¹

Although Applicants do not believe that *Theodoras* discloses each and every limitation of any pending claim, to expedite allowance of this case, Applicants have amended independent Claims 1 and 11 to include the limitations of Claims 7 and 17, respectively. As the Examiner has indicated that Claims 7 and 17 would be allowable if rewritten in independent form to include the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims, Claims 1 and 11 should be in condition for allowance at least because on these amendments (although Applicants believe them to allowable without the amendments). Furthermore, Claims 2-6, 8-10, 12-16, and 18-20, which depend from either Claim 1 or 11, should also be in condition for allowance. Therefore, Applicants respectfully request reconsideration and allowance of Claims 1-6, 8-16, and 18-20.

¹ The Examiner does not include Claims 6 and 16 in the recitation of the section 102 rejection; however, Applicants assume that these claims are rejected under section 102 since arguments as to why these claims are anticipated are included under the section 102 rejection.

Applicants have also amended Claim 21 to include limitations similar to those of amended Claims 1 and 11. Therefore, this claim should also be in condition for allowance for at least this reason. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully request reconsideration and allowance of Claim 21.

Applicants have cancelled Claim 25. Therefore, the rejection of this claim is now moot.

Section 103 Rejections

Claims 5 and 15 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over *Theodoras*. Claims 5 and 15 depend from Claims 1 and 11, respectively, which have been shown above to be in condition for allowance. Therefore, for at least this reason, these claims should also be in condition for allowance. Thus, Applicants respectfully request reconsideration and allowance of Claims 5 and 15.



CONCLUSION

Applicants have made an earnest attempt to place this case in condition for allowance. For the foregoing reasons, and for other reasons clearly apparent, Applicants respectfully request full allowance of all pending claims.

If the Examiner feels that a telephone conference would advance prosecution of this Application in any manner, the Examiner is invited to contact Brian W. Oaks, Attorney for Applicants, at the Examiner's convenience at (214) 953-6986.

No fee is believed to be due. However, the Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any additional fees or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 02-0384 of BAKER BOTTS L.L.P.

Respectfully submitted,

BAKER BOTTS L.L.P.
Attorneys for Applicants

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be "Brian W. Oaks", written over the printed name and registration number.

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Date: December 14, 2004

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